**SERMON SHEET 10/22/23**

**Study of Hebrews #24**

**“The Sorrowful Tragedy of the ‘Almost Christian’”**

**Text: Hebrews 6:4-6**

I. Introduction & review

1. We will press on to maturity… if God permits.
2. While we joyfully and gratefully remember and review and meditate on foundational doctrines, we do not need to lay them again.

II. A comforting reminder: the joyful reality of the secure Christian

1. John 6:37-40
2. John 10:24-29
3. Ephesians 1:13-14
4. Philippians 1:6
5. 1 Peter 1:3-5

III. A sobering warning: the sorrowful tragedy of the “almost Christian”

1. They have been enlightened (v.4a).
2. They have tasted the good things of God (vs. 4b-5).
   1. The heavenly gift (v. 4b)
   2. The goodness of God’s Word (v. 5a)
   3. The powers of the age to come (v. 5b)
3. They have shared in the Holy Spirit (v. 4c).
4. They have fallen away (v. 6a).

IV. Conclusion – a final word

**QUOTES**

1. Jay Adams:

*One ancillary reason he wants them to go on toward maturity, doubtless, is because this will separate the true from the false. Those who truly know Christ will respond; those who don’t cannot. And in recognizing these facts, some may actually come to saving faith. After all, as he will show, it is a fearful thing, for one, having once made a profession of faith later to reject it. Why is that and what does that mean? In verses 4 through 9, he explains. We must now take up those purposely frightening verses.*

2. Charles Spurgeon:

*This is one of the texts that have been trodden under the feet of controversy. There are opinions upon it as adverse as the poles, some asserting that it means one thing, and some declaring that it means another.*

3. Al Mohler:

* *These verses are some of the most difficult verses in the entire New Testament.*
* *When interpreting difficult texts, it is imperative that we look at other, clearer texts. Scripture is unified and does not contradict itself. Therefore this warning is not addressing Christians losing their faith because other passages say genuine faith cannot be lost. Rather, those who leave and apostatize never really had true faith.*

4. A. W. Pink:

*As perhaps the majority of our readers are aware, the verses before us have proved one of the fiercest theological battlegrounds of the centuries.*

5. Kent Hughes:

*The obvious problem with this view is that if the sin cannot be committed, it is absurd to offer it as an argument against falling to it!*

6. R. C. Sproul:

*An apostate is distinguished from a pagan in this regard: the pagan has never made any profession of faith or any pretense of being a believer but an apostate is somebody who has in fact made a profession of faith, joined the church, and then later repudiated the faith.*

7. John MacArthur:

* *None of the normal New Testament terminology for salvation is used*.
* *Their lives were permanently affected by the indelible impression that Jesus must have made on them. Yet many, if not most, of them did not believe in Him*… [Like] *the Jews being addressed in Hebrews 6, they were enlightened but not saved*.

**SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE**

* **1 John 2:19; Is. 9:2; John 1:9-11; John 12:35-37; John 6:47-66; Jer. 15:16**